

GHOST TRACKERS NEWSLETTER

The Official Paranormal Publication of the Ghost Research Society



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Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Ghost Trackers Newsletter is the official paranormal publication of the Ghost Research Society. The GRS was founded in 1978 by Martin V. Riccardo and this publication soon followed in September of 1982. It is published and edited by Dale D. Kaczmarek, President and is put out in February, June and October.

The **Ghost Research Society** is a membership organization devoted to collecting, analyzing and researching all forms of the paranormal with an emphasis on ghosts, hauntings, poltergeists and life after death. Different memberships are available for those wishing to become more actively involved. We are also looking for officers, State Coordinators, Field Investigators and Area Research Directors for various states and countries.

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Tom Perrott Area Research Dir.

Lee Holloway

Maurice Schwalm

Regular



Columnists

Richard Senate

Send all inquiries and subscriptions to: **Ghost Research Society**, c/o Dale D. Kaczmarek, PO Box 205, Oak Lawn, IL. 60454-0205 or call (708)425-5163, (708)425-3969 FAX. Make all checks and money orders payable to Dale Kaczmarek. VISA and Mastercard also accepted. E-mail: dkaczmarek@ibm.net

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Editors page:

Halloween is rapidly approaching and with cooler weather coming ever so near, it's time to reflect back on what each and every one of us did on our Summer Vacation.

I was unable to make it to Cape May, New Jersey as I had planned due in part to my continuing back injury which occurred in January. It's kept

me from doing a lot of what I normally enjoy however I hope to have an IDET procedure performed soon where I will be able to return to work and continue my ghostly activities.

The American Ghost Society conference held in July in Alton, Illinois, was a great success and I hope that all of you who wished to go had a chance to partake in this wonderful convention! There was much to be learned thru interactive workshops and training lectures showing the novice the ins and outs of becoming a ghost researcher. Besides the workshops, there were a number of interesting speakers and lectures, and, of course, the haunted Alton trolley tour personally directed by Troy Taylor; something I would never miss! Many new sites were visited and I never tire of becoming a passenger rather than a director and sit back and relax on an informative tour.

Plans are already in the works for the 2001 conference. If you missed this years event, don't miss next years!

We were able to visit and investigate both the haunted Lemp Mansion in St. Louis and the McPike Mansion in Alton. Both were equally spooky and well known for

being quite haunted. We weren't able to spend as much time as I would have wanted in the Lemp Mansion due to a mix-up in the dates, however thanks to Sharyn Luedke, we were invited to stay as long as we wished in the McPike Mansion in Alton.

However we did not get much in the way of evidence of an ongoing haunting in either building during the time we were there. We were able to set up G.E.I.S.T. at the Lemp Mansion but not at the McPike due to the lack of internal power sources. We were able to capture a few floating orbs on the Sony Nightvision cameras at both locations.

The son of our tour-guide at the Lemp Mansion had the washroom doorknob violently pulled out of his hand as he attempted to use the facilities. There were also some strange odors picked up by researchers at both locations. Namely a sweat-smelling scent in the basement of the Lemp Mansion and what smelled like either pipe smoke or cherries on the third floor of the McPike Mansion.

Others captured strange orbs on digital cameras (which I don't recommend using), but they were interesting nonetheless. The McPike Mansion was ideal as there was no electricity running in the house so our instruments could not pick up electrical disturbances caused by the wiring or appliances. Jim Graczyk's Sony camera was shut off during a taping of the wine cellar. The batteries were fully charged and the camera was not in the standby mode. We were unable to determine the source of the inexplicable shutdown.

Future expeditions will be needed with more equipment and longer periods before we can make a judgement call on these houses.

Ghost Research Society



This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to two old friends of mine; Dan McKee and Sarah Estep.

Sarah Estep was the founding member of AA-EVP, American Association for

Electronic Voice Phenomena located in Annapolis, Maryland. For quite a number of years, Sarah worked with EVP recording spirit voices on tape recorders of all kinds. She successfully ran a small newsletter and held a number of conferences which I was proud to have conducted a workshop in.

Because of failing health, Sarah Estep has decided to step down from the head reins of the AA-EVP. Her dynamic impact in this field will be sorely missed! Tom and Lisa Butler (PO Box 71, Ext. 105, T. or C., NM. 87901) have taken up where she left off and are still producing a newsletter. Write for additional information.

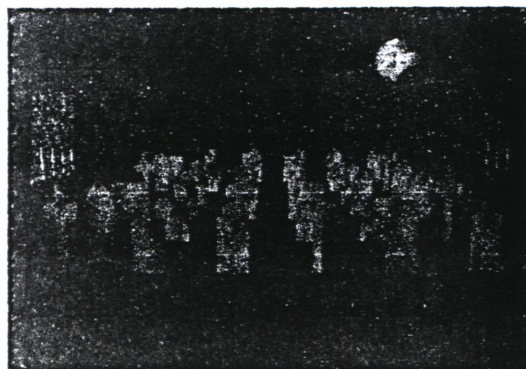
Dan McKee, Illinois State Coordinator of the AA-EVP, died recently. Dan was truly an expert in the field of EVP and had some of the best sounding voices that I've ever heard! Plus Dan often helped me in the analysis of alleged spirit voices and sounds and I was deeply guided by his expertise! I had a chance to meet Dan and his wife at one of the AA-EVP's conferences in Baltimore. He was truly a listener and a very nice gentlemen! You will be greatly missed my friend!

We welcome new Patron member, Christina Wallbruch and Contributing Member Henry Bailey. Mr. Bailey will soon be appointed the Washington State Coordinator of the GRS. He is highly qualified for the position and I assume you will be hearing a lot from him in future issues of this newsletter.

Since our last edition there have been 1 new member and renewals from 6 veteran members. Thanks!

Book sales of Windy City Ghosts have been doing well with quite a number of book signings in July and August. I have several more signings in October plus over 16 library lectures already scheduled.

There has been many new updates to the website recently including the Anatomy of an Investigation and new equipment added in that section. The October and November Excursions Into The Unknown tours are now listed on the website and are already beginning to fill up. Don't wait long and be disappointed! Sign up today!



The Use of Dowsing Rods in Psychic Investigations

Richard Senate



The investigations of rumored haunted sites has been open to speculation for many decades. The use of such things as lists of adjectives, psychics and devices to measure tiny variations in

magnetic fields and temperature, have been long established in parapsychology. In the investigation of an allegedly haunted site I have found that dowsing, an automatic system using divining rods, has proven successful in the location of 'psychic disturbances'. Simple rods manufactured from clothes hangers have been used by independent teams to find such diverse targets as the rooms where ghosts have been seen and where missing walls were once located. I have further discovered that most people have the ability to use dowsing rods. Teams of laymen can be used in place of "psychics" and so called "Dowsing experts" with remarkable success. Teams of people, using dowsing rods in sweeps separated by months and years seem to have the ability to locate the same disturbed targets – seemingly confirming the haunting presence.

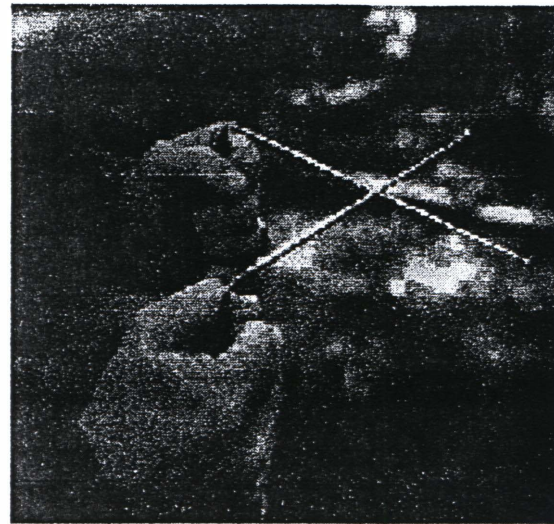
Three teams were used over a year and a half in the psychic investigation of the old Spanish Mission of La Purisima located

in Lompoc, California. The restored church was the center of a number of reports of ghosts and other strange happenings. The team, with the goal of confirming the haunting at the adobe mission, were totally independent.

The church was paved with square Spanish floor tiles about ten inches from side to side. Each of the tiles were numbered and charted by an independent team member. There were over three thousand tiles in the large room of the chapel. The first team swept the place marking, on a chart, the spots where the rods crossed in what were called "hits". Team one then disbanded and had no further contact with the experiment or with any of the other teams. The second team went in three months later and completed the same sweep of the room recording their findings on charts. They had no contact with any of the materials of findings of the first team yet many of the tiles they "hit" were the same!

Team three independently dowsed the chapel seven months later and also made a remarkable number of "hits". All three teams made a number of hits, none over 160, yet 42 of the hits were the same tiles! The teams were not told where the hauntings had been seen nor were the 42 tiles placed in any pattern that would prejudice the team members into believing that they were in any way different from any of the other tiles. In questioning one of the men who worked on

the renovation of the mission and its reconstruction in 1941. He told of several tiny skeletons discovered buried under the tiles. They were the remains of Indian children who died in infancy in the years after the mission was abandoned by the Spanish Padres. He detailed the number and locations of the graves on a large chart of the chapel. Though he knew nothing of the experiments, the sites he pointed out were identical to the tiles where the dowsing rods had crossed! In a separate run of tests performed at the Mission San Fernando in Mission Hills the target was a long corridor where a ghostly figure known as "Cat Woman" (called that because of the phantom cats that walk with the specter) has been seen for the last three decades. The primary goal was to determine if layman dowsers could locate the site of the hauntings. Having determined that none of the group knew the location, five teams were organized to seep the corridor, two times each, for three years! As before, none of the teams were in communication with one another and none were privy to the findings of the other teams until the conclusion of the experiment. Some of the teams made many hits (215), others very few (7-9) but, what turned up was a majority hit in a line that went right across the corridor at the fifteenth archway. Research later showed that an adobe wall had been built at that point when the mission was used as a Butterfield Stagecoach stop in the 1850s. This fact was unknown to the team members as well as the staff setting up the test! The laymen had found a "lost wall" they knew nothing about, confirming the use of dowsers in what has been named "psychic archaeology". The test also confirmed that a majority did locate the approximate location of the three confirmed sightings of the "Cat Woman" apparition at



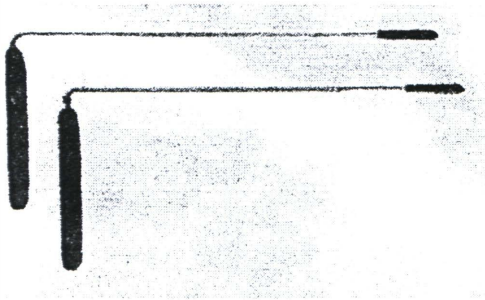
the old mission.

In the investigation of the GMT Studios in Culver City, California, dowsing rods were successfully used to locate the sections of a movie set where haunting activities had occurred. The rods were used to determine the size of the area affected by the psychic disturbance. Poker chips were used to outline the psychic zone. The team did not know the exact location of the haunting - they had been given only a brief account of what had been seen by guards late at night.

Witnesses confirmed that this was the exact spot of the sighting. At the exact center of the disturbance the rods were put to another test. They were used to answer "yes" and "no" questions. When asked if the set had been built at that place the rods moved apart indicating "no". The team was told that the set had been built in that sound stage and that no deaths were connected to the place. When asked if anyone had died here, the rods crossed indicating a "yes" answer. When the head of the studio came to look in on the progress of the ghost hunt, he was asked where the 'haunted' set had

come from. He confirmed that the set was one of the few that was not built at the studio - - it had been purchased from another and had been used in a made-for-television move, "Alcatraz The Whole Shocking Story" starring Telly Savalas for ABC-TV.

Further investigation uncovered the fact that one of the extras had died in the filming of the movie in a freak accident! The data supplied by the diving rods was contrary to what the team had been told upon entering the studio, yet, it was confirmed as true.



The findings of such experiments must be researched and not accepted at face value. But, these results indicate that psychic ability, in elementary levels, is rather widespread in the general population and that this latent ESP can be tapped using simple automatic systems such as dowsing.

Additional experiments are needed to confirm that dowsing has a place in haunted site investigation. If anyone has had similar findings and results I would like to discuss the ramifications of these experiments to current parapsychology.

Submitted by:

Richard Senate, Special Consultant to the GRS, 10061 Carlyle St., Ventura, California, 93004.

www.ghost-stalkers.com

A Civil War Farm House

Maurice Schwalm



The psychic field is full of anomalies such as seemingly unrelated subjects which turn out to have related dynamics. The August, 1980 Fate magazine had an article called

"Living UFOs" which deals with efforts to photograph invisible organic forms in the sky. Unlike the usual UFO situation where something spontaneously occurring is subjected to study, here presence is assumed to an effort is made to detect it. Since UFOs come from the sky, maybe some of them live there on the substances and energies of the atmosphere.

They first had to decide how to photograph whisps. Hauntings gave a clue. It was noted that the trajectories of poltergeist-propelled objects had skip patterns similar to UFOs in general. Ghosts have been photographed with infrared film so that was used along with a locating Sniperscope which gives a telescopic registration of infrared. Pointed towards the cool, unpolluted air of the desert the combination gave results. But the conclusion was drawn that these "space critters" actually emanate heat which is registered. This in spite of the fact that

results are also reported on black and white panchromatic film and even Super-8 movie film. It's a long way from infrared with an 18A filter which blocks all visible light to non-professional film like Super-8.

The way gets even longer when you realize that Kodak infrared films really aren't designed and rated for this. They pick up reflected infrared. An object obtained are worth considering in relation to the original hypothesis. They range from a 100-mile long invisible amoeba to a kind of "flying hamburger" to impossibly tight formation vapor trails. There is no evidence that these were organic. But psychic manifestations in the skies are not unknown.

All psychic photography involves linking to the invisible at the point where it is spatially manifest. "Ghost Riders in the Sky" are no different. But I feel researchers in this rarefied area had best take a few more leads from the comparatively defined trail of ghost photography. More photos can be analyzed as transformations and displacements of light at the film plane, which requires a minimal level of psychokinetic energy, than as emanations or materializations. The virtue of infrared lies in the minimal number of photons required to effect silver halide crystals at that end of the light spectrum. Ultra-fast films or simply the improved photographic mediumship that results from repeated linkage will permit registration on visible

light films.

We recently investigated a haunted well behind an ante-bellum farm house. Linkage was made, not with the soldiers who once fought over the well, but with the spirit of a young woman who had been employed there at a much later date when the farm house was used as a house of prostitution by a Madam who was directly involved in organized crime. Apparently the young woman tried to secure the release of a male prisoner already being held in the well and got herself chained there as well. She was photographed as a figure of stone that was any combination of rocks. This indeed



Reader's Stories

I was recommended to see your site, after a friend reported having seen it, and heard of you on various occasions. Aside from a rather unpleasant excursion into Bachelor's Grove, my belief in general of supernatural phenomena has been very little. Even then I somewhat doubted what I saw and felt there, the only thing making me feel otherwise, the continuously odd things that occur in my home I share with my parents. Over the years I've had a few unexplained experiences, but nothing could have prepared me for the odd events that occur in this home I presently reside in, not far from Ravinia (Highland Park, Illinois).

The home was built in the late 20s. It's made primarily of brick. Pretty much,

seems to be a simple light transformation but it also represents the psyche of a woman who was indeed turned to stone by a wicked witch.

If there are macrophantoms in the sky, linking to their cloud-like psyches may prove more cogent than an 18A filter.

Submitted by:

Maurice Schwalm, PO Box 3522, Kansas City, MO. 66103-0522.

the only thing unchanged is an outhouse in the basement. It's a tiny wood shack with a moon design above the door, and some sort of freemason symbol on the doorknob. It looks like a triangle with no bottom, and a 'G' in the middle, if that means anything. We have remodeled the house somewhat, as have the previous two residents as well, the woman who lived in the house prior to the people who we bought the home from, had done the most extensive remodeling, including adding an entirely new room to the house.

The only thing I found was, when I remodeled the basement closets, a handmade shelf I tore down that was adjacent to the room where the shack is, was made of Ouija Boards. These were not the Milton Bradley kind. They were dated from the 40s I believe, they were powder blue, had symbols like moons and that stuff on it, and whatever language the board had, it wasn't English. It looked like Latin or something to that nature. I brought these boards to show my mother, who apparently destroyed them,

mother, who apparently destroyed them, despite my request for her to save them for further research. Now here's what has been going on in the home that I cannot for the life of me explain.

First, the music. On occasion, the most beautiful music, mostly piano playing, emanates from within the house, playing throughout the house, with no source in sight. On occasion, I've also seen flowing balls of light, that usually are followed by rapid temperature changes. One friend that was in the house claimed to see a woman wearing an elegant white dress, walking through the ravine which is behind our home. Another friend came into the house, walked into the room where the most odd activity happens, that being the room that is the addition. Not believing a word I said about the phenomena in the house, he cried out and said something like, "If anything is here, I demand you show yourself to me now." A moment later he came out of the room screaming, his skin pale, tears coming from his eyes, and after I chased him down the street where he finally stopped, he told me he felt a hand hit him from behind.

I have had lights blow out for no reason. One time I was literally knocked down by a strong wind, and I am rather large, as I walked into my home, and every single light in the house blew out, of course I was alone at the time and it was late. Even the outside lights blew out. I was so scared, there were no lights, it was pitch black out, and something knocked me down!

Following this incident, a stale aroma was cast throughout the house, that was not unlike rotten meat. I tried to explain it to my mother, who kept telling me to have the plumber come, that maybe the sink was jammed. The sink wasn't jammed, the stink was all over the house, and eventually it

went away without any explanation.

Sometimes, when my parents are in the house, they start talking to me, in response to questions I never asked them. The most terrifying incident occurred last winter. I was so scared, I left the house for an entire week.

Following this incident, I no longer sleep with the lights off. I put nightlights all over the house, and I've not had a good night's sleep since. I was alone at the time. I watch the house for my parents in the winter when they go down to Florida. I awakened from my sleep in the basement, there was a loud crash, sounding like glass breaking, followed by a loud thud that could be heard and felt from the floor above.

Next I heard a person pacing back and forth on the wooden floors. I crept up the stairs with a cell phone in one hand, a hammer in the other. I looked at my burglar alarm unit before I turned to face the family room, and I felt an awful chill. I began to dial 911, as I flicked the light on and saw an angry old man pacing back and forth in my living room, mumbling incessantly. I started to talk to him. I tried to calm him down. There is a retirement home nearby, and I assumed broke into my house in a delirious state. I looked down for not even a second to see the send button, so I could get the police over, and when I looked up, he vanished into vapor, and that was the last I saw of him.

From time to time, I hear strange noises, with no specific pattern or timing. It can be weeks before we notice weird things starting to happen in the house again.

The other night, as I was sound asleep in the basement, my door was slammed shut, which awoke me immediately. Figuring it to be my parents, I turned the lights on, and I got upstairs. I fell

asleep hours before, it was one of those states you fall into when you've worked so hard you can't think straight. Apparently my parents went out for the evening, for they walked into the house five minutes later, as I paced around the house frantically trying to figure out who or what slammed my door.

Though I really have no experience in the supernatural, I would imagine my house is haunted. I was wondering when my parents leave, if you could perhaps recommend to me someone who could come and check out the house. Someone who knows what to look for. I am legit. I am sure you get plenty of fakers, but I am 25 years old, work a successful full-time job and quite frankly can't wait to move out of this house next year!

M. Heller thru the Internet.

I am emailing you in the hopes of obtaining some answers. A friend of mine has experiences that are extremely hard to explain since she moved into her apartment on May the first, 1999. Her female Tabby cat has been howling at her and her husband at night while they are sleeping, waking them up. Her scissors went missing from her bathroom cabinet, and turned up in her living room. Her needle and thread has gone missing, and still is. She gets a strong feces smell when she walks into a room that goes away after a few seconds. She woke up with a scratch down her spine, from neck to tailbone, that wasn't there the night before. And she has reddish-brown stains on her hands and feet that won't wash off, that appeared overnight, but there are no stains in her apartment that she could have stepped in.

Any information or insight into these occurrences would be greatly appreciated.

My friend lives in London, Ontario, Canada.

A. Manley thru the Internet.

For the last few weeks, we have experienced some most unusual happenings in our home, that have, at best, gotten out of hand. First, let me explain that we are the original owners of our six years old home. The happenings I am referring to include the following: stools placed up on our kitchen counter, pictures hung upside down, doors locking, office chairs up on desks and bath water turned off. Believe me when I tell you that I know how insane all this sounds. We have not shared these happenings with any of our family or friends, except two of my daughter's friends who witnessed some of these strange things.

There is only myself, 46-years-old, my husband 47-years-old, our daughter 14-years-old and our Labrador and three cats. None of the animals have EVER acted in a suspicious manner. We are at a total loss to explain any of this. Is there any help you can offer by way of reading materials, tapes, etc.? Anything?

The happenings seem to be focusing on my husband, his office and his things. Today we found his heavy desk move into a corner with an old baby picture placed on his chair. Extremely weird and unsettling! What does all this mean and how can I find out? I can completely understand how this story may sound....outrageous comes to mind, but rest assured, I am not embellishing.

We live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

T. Bleck from the Internet.

My name is Aeryn, and I am an 18-year-old female, living in Schaumburg,

which passed away of terminal illness at the ages of 6 months and 8 years. My mother refused to bury them though, because she claimed they "would get lonely". So she had them both cremated, and their ashes are now in my house. Every now and then I think I hear the strange noises that the 8-year-old made, because he had Cerebral Palsy.

I hear strange things....babies crying, children laughing...even tapping on my window. I was wondering what you thought about my situation, and if you could tell me what might be happening. I love my little brothers dearly, but this is really frightening.

Aeryn from the Internet.

Can you shed some light on this subject? We own a sushi business where we have several Indonesian workers rolling/making California rolls, etc. throughout the night. 8pm to 5am. Apparently the last few nights they have seen ghosts, black ghosts. And apparently one of these ghosts tried to choke one of our workers. Also, this same ghost was somehow responsible for following our Indonesian partner's brother while he was driving and caused him to have an accident in Flagstaff. I will be spending tonight at the plant watching them work and watching for ghosts.

Background:

These workers are friends of one of our partners. They came over from Indonesia six months ago. They are new to the United States. The plant is located next to a cemetery (what a coincidence).

Have you heard of anything like this? And if so could you explain. Also, do you know anything about what Indonesians do or need to do in order to ward off ghosts?

Mark from the Internet.

I have a log cabin back of the main house, that has ghosts. This paranormal activity has been going on for well over a year. I do not live in it. I do have a guest that stays there for part of the time.

I am not bothered by this, now. I had a cleansing last November of 1998. It calmed things down some. I had to have another one done in December. That worked. Then the activity started back again. I discovered that it was a new set of ghosts. Does this cabin have some type of vortex?

I have experienced these ghosts myself. My guest has experienced them more. They are still active. Movements of objects and lights in the cabin have acted up and one ghost showing itself and speaking.

I did live in this cabin in the early 1980s. I know the history of the land back 100 years. This cabin was built in 1936 as a summer home. I have talked to the man who built it, and he didn't experience any activity. There were no visible signs of any graves or stones to suggest that there was a cemetery.

It is my understanding that there are around 20 spirits in the cabin, with about 6 of them being of an evil nature. What advice could you recommend?

J. Logan of Forest City, NC.

The Spectral Ladies of Flagler College

Lee Holloway

There is probably not a college or boarding school in existence that doesn't have a ghost story, usually a tale involving a student or teacher who died as a result of suicide or some bizarre accident. Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, is no exception, but most of its spooks were around long before the liberal arts school was founded in 1968. In fact, its three spectral ladies are all from the 1890s when the buildings now occupied by the college comprised one of the grandest hotels in the U.S.

Often referred to as "The Man Who Founded Florida," self-made millionaire and railroad magnate, Henry Morrison Flagler, fell in love with the ancient city of St. Augustine and decided to turn it into a vacationer's paradise. He opened his Ponce de Leon Hotel January 10, 1888, and the mammoth four-story Spanish Renaissance Revival structure with its medieval towers, terra cotta roof, 10,000-square-foot interior courtyard and vine-covered verandas sprawled over almost five acres. The theme of the structure was definitely maritime with water spouting from the mouths of dolphins, mermaids supporting shields bearing the name "Ponce de Leon" and exterior carvings of seashells and various creatures of the deep. If possible, the interior was even more splendid. A grand archway led to the great rotunda which was inlaid with richly-colored mosaic tiles. Situated around the rotunda were eight massive figures, allegorical

representations of the four elements: fire, water, air and earth; with the other four typifying adventure, discovery, conquest and civilization.

Behind the rotunda were two stairways of polished marble leading to the grand dining hall, an oval-shaped room measuring 70 by 150 feet with a seating capacity of 700. It was called the Tiffany Room because of its stained glass windows by Tiffany. This setting of almost unparalleled splendor is the lair of the **Blue Lady**.

The Lady in Blue, seen on numerous occasions, has even been known to converse with people. Although there are questions as to her identity, old-timers who once worked in the hotel dining room recalled hearing stories about a lady who preferred dresses of pale blue lace, broad-brimmed white hats adorned with flowers, white gloves and high-button shoes of white kid. She always sat at a particular table near the window and asked for tea and cakes. It was said the woman never ordered a full meal.

One story, proffered by Florida historian Robert R. Jones, is that the Lady in Blue was the mistress of Clifton Ward, a friend of Henry Flagler's. Although married, Ward apparently seduced a dark-haired beauty who was staying at the hotel without a chaperone. There was an affair and before long, the girl discovered she was in the family way. She told Ward who, in turn, asked his wife for a divorce, but Mrs.

Ward refused. That afternoon, he sat down at the table with his beloved, where she was partaking of tea and cakes, and informed her there could be no marriage. With tears filling her sapphire blue eyes, the lady bolted from the room and up the stairs. When she reached the top, the heel of her shoe caught on the carpet and she tumbled to her death.

While this is a romantic story, there is evidence that the woman may have taken her own life. In one of Henry Flagler's journals, he wrote: "We have received tragic news today about Cliff's lady friend. I know how heartbroken he is because he had very strong feeling for her. He had even given up his present family to be with her. It's a real shame that she couldn't have waited a few days longer. Her beautiful face and blue silk lace have become a part of this hotel."

It is too late to ascertain the truth of the matter, but soon after the young woman's death, the "Blue Lady" began making appearances in the dining room. For years, her chosen table, below the magnificent window, contained a card which read: "Reserved for our Lady in Blue and her Guest."

Flagler College students still see the Blue Lady occasionally and some have heard her muffled sobs. It is presumed she is weeping for her lost lover and unborn child. She is most often encountered near her favorite spot in the dining room or on the stairs.

The **Lady in Black** stalks the west wing of Flagler College. There is also speculation about her origin but the most oft-repeated explanation is that, like the Blue Lady, she, too, was the mistress of a married man. Obviously a very brazen fellow, the gentleman brought both his wife and mistress to the Ponce de Leon. He shared a suite with his wife and family in the east

wing and ensconced his lady love in luxurious quarters on the opposite side of the hotel. She was registered as a married woman and wore a wedding band. This way, the cad hoped to avoid any unpleasantness if the two women should happen to meet. At some time during the season - - which lasted from January to March - - the young mistress discovered she was pregnant and after a few weeks, she could no longer fasten the waists of her dresses no matter how tightly she laced her corset. To allay suspicion, she told people she had received word her husband had died abroad and confined herself to her room, even taking her meals there. It was only after dark that the sad-faced young woman donned widow's weeds - which included a veil and black lace cape - and left the confines of her room to stroll about the grounds in moonlight. In Victorian times, this was considered acceptable behavior for a widow and no one questioned the overabundance of black lace which served to obscure the lady's expanding waistline. At other times, the woman climbed the stairs to the upper balcony of the west observation tower where she could be seen pacing back in forth.

The visits from her married lover became sporadic and the once vivacious girl felt he was less attracted to her now that she no longer possessed the hourglass figure he had so admired. It was clear he was not going to marry her and she would be left alone to raise a bastard child. Finally, one night, in a fit of desperation, the lady made the arduous climb to the top of the tower where she tied one end of a heavy silk cord to a slender wooden pillar, and the other around her neck. Then, hoisting herself atop the railing, she stepped into eternity. There was a full moon that night and guests

outside taking in fresh sea air looked up and saw the form of a woman in black silhouetted against the light-colored stone of the west tower.

The Lady in Black is most often observed walking the halls in the area of the building where her room was located, but she has also been spotted wandering about the grounds on mild evenings. Those who encounter her describe a figure dressed entirely in black with only the hint of a chalk white face discernable beneath the veil. And on nights when the full moon hangs high in the sky, people sometimes catch a glimpse of what appears to be a shadowy figure, gliding to and fro, on the balcony of the west tower.

The final and most active phantom female of Flagler College is the **White Lady** but, unlike her spectral sisters, her identity is not in question. Her actions establish beyond doubt that she is Henry Flagler's second wife, Alice, who was driven mad by supernatural forces summoned via the Ouija board. Henry's first wife, Mary, died of tuberculous in 1881. Alice Shrouds, a comely woman in her mid-thirties, was one of Mrs. Flagler's nurses and two years later, she married her former patient's husband. Alice was not rich in her own right and spent her husband's money with relish. She particularly enjoyed throwing lavish parties at the Ponce de Leon Hotel. Society editors dubbed one such affair the "Pearl Dance" because of the size and number of pearls worn by Alice. On another occasion, her costume was described as "...a beautiful gown of white tulle, the front bodice being embroidered in mother-of-pearl and gold and the skirt bordered with pearl fringe half a yard deep."

The couple had no children and the high-strung, red-haired Alice was

temperamental, but from all accounts, the marriage was a happy one until around 1893 when a friend introduced Alice to the Ouija board. To be fair, Alice was already somewhat peculiar and at age 45, she was probably exhibiting the symptoms of menopause. Nevertheless, there are those who feel the Ouija board can be harmful if not used properly and claim there should always be at least two people present when the oracle is consulted. If this is true, then Alice may have sealed her fate by using the board alone.

Alice communicated with a spirit who convinced her the Czar of Russia was in love with her and she was destined to become the Czarina. She began identifying herself as Princess Ida Alice von Schotten Tech and believed people were trying to poison her because of her royal heritage. By 1895, it was felt the lady had become homicidal and Flagler had his wife committed. However, in May of the following year, Mrs. Flagler was pronounced cured and Flagler welcomed her back to their New York home on June 5, 1896, their 13th wedding anniversary. All went well for a few weeks, then Alice began begging for a spirit board and attempted to bribe the servants to bring her one. Finally, on October 10, a neighbor's wife sneaked a new Ouija board into the Flagler home and Alice resumed her infatuation for the Czar of Russia and conversed with unseen visitors. She was returned to the asylum and this time, the doctors diagnosed her as hopelessly insane.

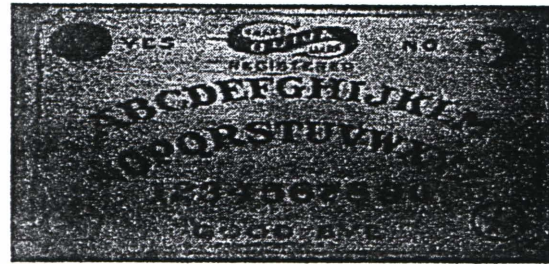
Flagler returned to Florida and soon succumbed to the charms of Mary Lily Kenan, a Southern belle 37 years his junior. After failing to obtain a divorce from his lunatic wife in New York, Flagler persuaded the Florida Legislature to change the law to

allow divorce when a spouse has been declared permanently unbalanced. He and Mary Lily were married in 1901 and lived happily at Whitehall, their Palm Beach mansion, a short distance from the Ponce de Leon Hotel.

Meanwhile, Alice, in a world of delusion, languished in a New York sanatorium. But in the end, she outlived them all - - the husband who divorced her, and his new, young bride (Mary Lily died in 1917, just eight months after marrying her second husband). Alice died July 10, 1930, at age 82. She was buried in New York.

Soon after Alice Flagler's death, rumors began circulating that a spectral Lady in White was stalking the dark corridors of the spooky old hotel in St. Augustine. Those who saw the ghost described a petite, red-haired woman all decked out in Victorian finery. No one was really surprised. Even though Alice has not visited Florida in 35 years, it was understandable that her spirit would choose to appear where she had known the greatest happiness - - the Ponce de Leon Hotel.

Several female students at Flagler College have reported encounters with Alice, especially when they are consulting the Ouija board. Joanie Sutcliffe recounts a particularly harrowing experience: "Three other girls and I had heard about the ghosts and we decided to try to contact them. I had played with Ouija boards since I was about 12, so one night we lit some candles and turned out the lights. We were sitting on the floor and two of us had our hands on the planchette. One of the girls screamed and there in the corner, I swear, was a woman. I only saw her for a second, but she was in a long, white dress and she was smiling. But it was a weird smile. One girl jumped up and turned on the lights and she (the woman)



disappeared. We knew it was Alice."

Other students have reported similar experiences. One coed claimed she observed a "smoky form" just outside her door on several occasions. After learning about Alice's obsession with the Ouija board, the young lady surmised she was being stalked by the Woman in White because there was such a board in her room. She took the Ouija board to her parents' house and never saw the apparition appear.

Why is Alice, in death, attracted to the Ouija board as she was in life? Surely, now that she is on the other side herself, all her questions have been answered. In retrospect, Joanie Sutcliffe regrets that she and her friends were frightened by the spirit of Alice. "Just think of the things she could have told us," she admits. "We were trying to talk to the dead and she was ready to talk with us. We got scared and probably scared her as much as she scared us. We missed out on a real opportunity."

There are still occasional reports of a white misty form in the halls of the women's dormitory so, presumably, Alice is still around. And college students being what they are, it is only a matter of time before another group of Flagler girls get out the Ouija board in an attempt to contact the spectral ladies. Hopefully, the next group of ghost hunters will be less fearful or perhaps Alice will be more subtle.

Submitted by: GRS member Lee Holloway, Jacksonville, FL. lee77@bellsouth.net

Reviews

The ISPR Investigates Ghosts of Belgrave Hall (Videotape, Dotted Line Entertainment, Inc., & Flying Dog Productions, 1999, 60 minutes)

An actual investigation into haunted Belgrave Hall with Larry Montz, president of the ISPR, Peter James, noted psychic often seen on the "Sightings" series and other highly qualified members. The world's news media reported that surveillance cameras at Belgrave Hall had recorded a ghostly apparition in the north garden. An elaborate hoax? Or, is this the first videotaped proof of life after death?

The haunted corridors of this eighteenth century mansion were opened exclusively for this celebrated team of investigators. Walk with them as they meet the ghosts of Belgrave Hall and continue to shed new light in the field of parapsychology.

I found the video to be highly entertaining but somewhat flat near the end, especially their explanation for the various evidences for the ghost.

Rated a 6 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

The McPike Mansion Hauntings (Videotape, S.P.A. & Para-Vision, available from Sharyn Luedke of the McPike mansion, \$19.95)

An interesting video documenting the

history and hauntings of probably the most haunted private home in Alton, Illinois. Historical information related by current owners Sharyn Luedke and her husband, while the hauntings were documented by S.P.A. and Para-Vision. Dark shadows in the wine cellar, strange sounds, floating orbs, and much more.

This is the true story with actual facts that pertain to the haunting entities that inhabit the mansion. The testimony of the owners and investigators will leave little doubt in your mind that this mansion is haunted.

Somewhat interesting but very little in the way of actual, beyond the shadow of a doubt, footage of allegedly paranormal phenomena. A lot of the so-called 'orbs' could actually be bugs or insects since the house is open to the outside environment. However interesting.

Rated a 4 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Classified

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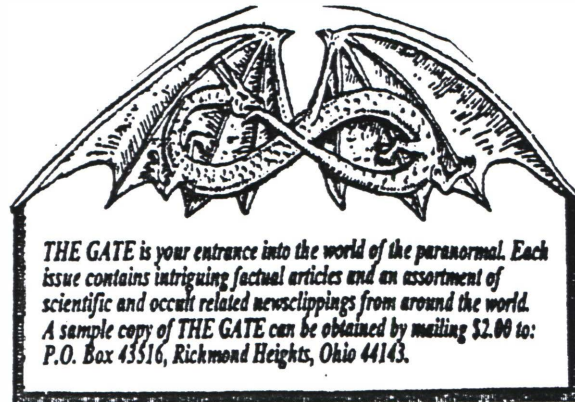
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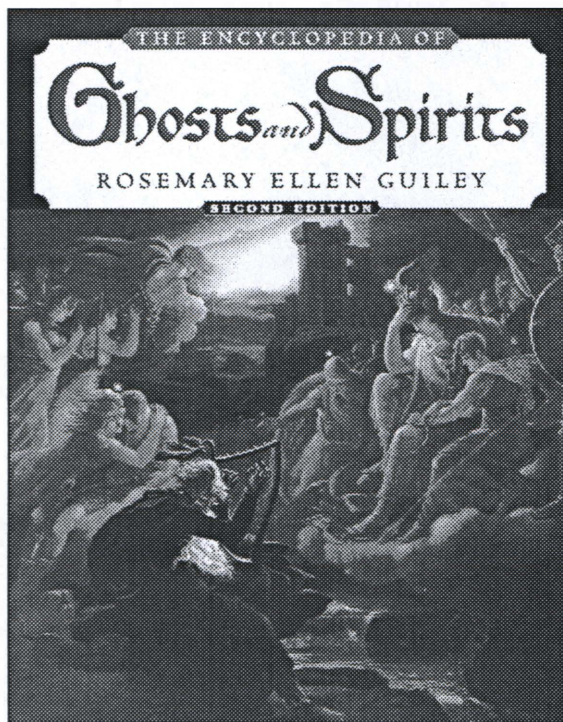
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